

## THE COMING OF URBAN THE FIFTH

All the bells of the city clashed out the alarm. The trainbands were in arms and poured into the Campo. Seizing the banner of the People, the Captain, Matteino di Ventura, left the Palace, put himself at their head, and drove the imperial forces back upon the Croce del Travaglio. In the narrow streets, assailed in all directions, deafened by the clanging bells, rained upon by stones and darts, the heavily-armed chivalry of the north was helpless. After an "incredible battle" of several hours, the Emperor was driven back to the Palazzo Salimbeni, with the loss of more than four hundred slain, including one of his own nephews. The three representatives of the Nine, who had left the Palace, were brought back in triumph in procession, to the sound of trumpets, crowned with garlands and bearing branches of olive. Pietro and Cione Salimbeni, in their turn, were made prisoners, and forced to yield up Massa to the Commune. A proclamation was issued forbidding any food to be sold or given to the Emperor or his people. Starved and terrified, protesting that he had been betrayed, the successor of Augustus pardoned the Commune everything, made the Defenders his vicars in perpetuity, meekly received back as many of his horses and as much of his property as the Captain of the People could recover, accepted a large sum of money, and went his way on January 28.<sup>1</sup> So cowed was the Emperor that a mere suggestion of trouble made him shrink from entering Pisa, where the upstart Doge had been overthrown and the old democratic government of the Anziani restored in the previous September. He passed on to Lucca, where he stayed till July, formally liberating that city for ever from the Pisan yoke.

In February, the Gambacorti—led by Piero and Gherardo and their sons—returned to Pisa in triumph, enthusiastically welcomed by the people in memory of the good government of their forebears. At the high altar of San Michele, Messer Piero swore love and fidelity to the Commune and People of Pisa, and he kept his oath. In the inevitable tumult against the Raspanti that

<sup>1</sup> *Cronica Sanese*, coll. 204-207.